



Safety Tips

- Children under the age of 12 should not ride in the front seat.
- Child safety seat should be secured in the center of the backseat. This is the safest location.
- Toddlers should ride rear-facing as long as they meet the requirements on the child safety seat.
- Child safety seat should not move from side to side more than 1 inch with 10 pounds of pressure.
- When using a locking clip, make sure it is secured near the buckle of the seatbelt. These clips are only needed if the safety belt cannot be put in a "locked" position.
- Secure loose items inside of the car—they can become projectiles in a crash.
- Do not use any after-market products that are not crash tested with the child safety seat.
- Read instructions for child safety seat and vehicle owner's manual to make sure they are compatible. When in doubt call the seat or car manufacturer.
- Never leave child unattended in the car—not even for a minute!

Top Errors in Car Seat Use

- Using car seat after the seat has been in an automobile crash.
- Parents do not read automobile manual or car seat manual.
- Infant seat facing forward instead of rearward.
- No locking clip used when one is necessary or placing it in wrong location on seatbelt.
- Car seat at improper angle (45 degrees for infants rear facing, upright for toddlers).
- Placing car seat in front seat with an airbag.
- Harness straps too loose; retainer clip too low (not at armpit level).
- Child too young or small to be forward facing.
- Using LATCH and seatbelts.
- Car seat not secured tight enough.
- Using an outdated seat.



Child Passenger Safety

“Protecting Our Precious Cargo”



Child Safety Seat Appointment

**Call (540) 853-5785 to
schedule an appointment.**

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____





Keeping Our Children Safe

Our children are the most precious cargo we carry while in our vehicles. But sadly, 80-90% of all child safety seats are not installed properly. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children under the age of 14.

Roanoke Fire-EMS, Safe Kids Roanoke, Carilion Clinic and the Roanoke Police Department want to make sure your child is properly restrained while traveling in your vehicle. This brochure will walk you through the steps to make sure your child has a safe ride every time!

A permanent fit station is offered on the third Thursday of the month from 4pm-6pm at Roanoke Fire-EMS Station #6 located at 1333 Jamison Ave., SE. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (540)853-5785.

VIRGINIA LAW

(Code of Virginia Article 13—Section 46.2)

Effective 2007: Child restraint devices are required for children through the age of seven (until the 8th birthday). Rear facing child safety seats have to be in the backseat.



Infants

- Infants until at least one year old and at least 20 lbs. should be in a rear facing safety seat. It is best to leave the seat rear facing until your child reaches the upper weight limit of the seat.
- Route harness straps in appropriate slots at or below shoulder level.
- Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Use only LATCH clips or seatbelts—not both!
- Remove bulky sweaters or snowsuits before placing child in seat.
- Infant carrying handle should always be down while in riding position.
- Recline a rear-facing safety seat to the proper angle; never more than 45 degrees.
- Seats should never be secured in front of airbags!
- Install in center of backseat if possible—this is the safest location.



Toddlers

- It is recommended that the child remain rear facing as long as possible—this offers the best protection to your child! Many seats allow your child to remain rear facing up to 30 lbs. It is recommended that your child remain rear facing until their 2nd birthday if at all possible and if they have not exceeded the weight and height limit on the seat.
- Keep harness strap snug.
- Route harness straps in upper slots at or above shoulder level.
- Fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Use only LATCH clips or seatbelts to install seat—not both!



Children

(About ages 4-8)

- Kids about age four to at least age eight have to be in booster seats.
- These seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belts. Children these ages are too small to fit correctly in adult safety belts alone.
- Kids at least eight years old and over 4'9" tall can use the lap/shoulder belt if it fits them correctly, but should ride in the backseat!
- Lap and shoulder belts should fit over the hips, across the chest and snug over the shoulder—the belt should not hit the child in the neck. If the seat belt does not fit correctly, put your child back into a booster seat!